

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OIC-02 SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05
EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 H-01 DODE-00 PA-01
/108 W

-----046992 030846Z /20

R 021135Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2828
INFO/RUSBQD/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 3615
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5561

FOR NEA/RA AND IO/OIC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CENTO
SUBJECT: CENTO REORGANIZATION

1. DURING FAREWELL CALL BY DSG(E) MARTIN ON JULY 31, CENTO
SYG GURUN BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF THE REORGANIZATION OF THE
SECRETARIAT AND EMPHASIZED THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. EXCEPT FOR IDEA OF SEPARATE POLITICAL DIVISION WHICH GURUN
ATTRIBUTED TO AMBASSADOR SPIERS, GURUN SAID HIS REORGANIZATION
PROPOSALS ARE BASED ON SUGGESTIONS MADE TO HIM BY CENTO REGIONAL
COUNTRY MINISTERIAL-LEVEL OFFICIALS DURING GURUN'S VISITS TO
REGIONAL CAPITALS. GURUN WAS PLEASED WHEN AMBASSADOR SPIERS (UNDER)
INSTRUCTIONS) SAID U.S. COULD GO ALONG WITH GURUN'S PLAN
INCLUDING PLACING ECONOMIC DIVISION UNDER REGIONAL COUNTRY DSG.
GURUN NOW DISAPPOINTED THAT U.S. SUBSEQUENTLY CHANGED ITS
POSITION AND IS NOW SUPPORTING U.K. REORGANIZATION PROPOSAL.

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B. GURUN SAID HE CONSIDERS SUGGESTION TO REDUCE NUMBER OF SENIOR
OFFICERS IN SECRETARIAT FROM 6 TO 5 INCLUDING SECRETARY GENERAL
TO BE IMPRACTICAL BECAUSE PROPOSED REVISION OF SECRETARIAT STAFF
REGULATIONS ENVISAGES 5 DSG'S ACTING AS BOARD. REDUCTION WOULD
ALSO MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO ROTATE DSG POSITIONS AMONG MEMBER
COUNTRIES.

C. GURUN IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO CONTINUATION OF U.S. BLOCK GRANT AS MECHANISM FOR U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS TO CENTO ECONOMIC PROGRAM. HE SAID U.S. CONTRIBUTES DIRECTLY TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SHOULD NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST CENTO. HE CONSIDERS U.S. BLOCK GRANT TO BE ARTIFICIAL DEVICE WHICH APPEARS TO MAINTAIN U.S. CONTROL OVER FUNDS ALREADY DONATED TO CENTO.

D. GURUN CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE HAD NO PRECONCEIVED IDEAS FOR CENTO REORGANIZATION BUT ONLY WISHES TO FOLLOW MEMBERS SUGGESTIONS.

2. COMMENT: WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT RECONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF AN ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF CONTRIBUTING TO TO CENTO ECONOMIC PROGRAM. MARTIN'S EFFORTS TO EXPLAIN THE U.S. BLOCK GRANT NOTWITHSTANDING, JUSTIFICATION OTHER THAN U.S. ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENIENCE TO OUR INSISTANCE ON CONTINUING THE BLOCK GRANT. GURUN WANTS TO MOVE CENTO IN DIRECTION OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO OBJECT TO ANY TREATMENT OF CENTO BY MEMBERS WHICH HE PERCEIVES AS NOT PARALLELING PROCEDURES FOLLOWED BY COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE REORGANIZATION OF THE SECRETARIAT, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE BRITISH PROPOSALS ARE A FAR BETTER FORMULATION THAN THAT PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL. THE SYG'S COMMENTS IN PARA LA NOTWITHSTANDING, WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE BRITISH PROPOSALS MAY WELL HAVE AT LEAST PARTIAL SUPPORT
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FROM THE REGIONAL COUNTRIES. END COMMENT.
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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